

STUDY ON POLITICAL PERCEPTION AND ENGAGEMENT OF YOUNG WO/MEN IN BANGLADESH

SUBMITTED TO

Democracy International (DI)



House#11/B, Road 36, Apartment B/3

Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212

www.democracyinternational.com

Prepared by

Rowshan Ara Ph.D

Conducted by

Democracy Watch



7 Circuit House Road

Ramna, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh

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Abbreviations

CRC	: The Convention on the Rights of the Child
DI	: Democracy International
DW	: Democracy Watch
FGD	: Focus Group Discussion
GO	: Government Organization
N.G.O	: Non-government Organization
UNDP	: United Nation Development Program
UP	: Union Parishad
WFFC	: World Fit for Children
WPAY	: World Program of Action for Youth

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The study will be effective one if the research findings play a role in educating young people about political issues.

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Rowshan Ara

Chapter 1

Political Participation of Young People: Background

1.1 Background

Development challenges should be met up by ensuring good governance and effective role of political leadership. There is close relationship among governance, leadership and development. Without good governance, development of a society is impossible. In early age of civilization Plato, Hobbes, Lock directly contributed for developing the theory of governance of the society. Good governance assumes a government's ability to maintain social peace, guarantee of law and order, promote or create conditions necessary for economic growth and ensures a minimum level of social security. Good governance requires creation of just laws that protects young citizens from abuse in economics and political affairs or human rights.

In Bangladesh, the youth in the age range of 18-35 years constitutes one third of the total population. Female youth represents 48.5%¹ of the total youth, an overwhelming majority of whom are illiterate, malnourished and socio-economically deprived. Despite rapid social change, young women still lag behind man in all spheres. Unfortunately, so far no measures have been taken to educate this population group on their civil rights and responsibilities. The country expects a better future of leadership from the wo/men where is a minimum of formal orientation has not been given to them on issues of politics, democracy, people's participation and finally the governance system of the state. In every five years, more than 5 millions youths become new voters and cast their votes for the very first time. But the ridiculous thing is that, none of our school curriculum or any other social institution prepare them to teach them on the importance and utilization of voting right and its implications. As a result a significant number of these fresh votes cast are either insincerely cast their votes or influenced by others. Among the youths, 75% live in rural area.

Youths of Bangladesh should be prepared to participate in governance system so that, good governance can be ensured. It is quite rational that youths should have enough access to information. Information must be stored between government and the young citizen to improve the quality of the policy making process. Right-based approach is the right approach of good governance. It is a mainstreaming process to link human rights to development. The youths should be mobilized to follow right- based approach.

1.2 Youth and National Development

The process of building a free, equal and democratic country is both exciting and challenging at the same time. Key among the manifold challenges is the challenge of creating appropriate and effective mechanisms for ensuring that young people continue to play an active and constructive role in

rebuilding a new society. “Young people should become an active part of nation building, reconciliation, reconstruction and development”² Youth can contribute a great deal to national development by participation in community development but the community development programs should have relevance not only to community needs but also to the goals of national development. Appropriate linkages should be established to ensure that information and ideas flow from upper levels to grass root levels and from grass roots to higher levels.

Young women are an asset; its potential has to be recognized before its value can be fully appreciated. Because of fear and prejudices, customs, lack of vision and imagination women are regarded as inferior to men. We fail to appreciate their capabilities as persons. The obstacles to the full participation of young women in national development are not minor but they must be removed not only in the interest of women but also in the interest of national development. If a country is to get the full benefit from participation, it must include all its human resources. In order to consider the very worthy contribution of young women in national development the constraints should be removed. “Extending the idea of human development to encompass women’s empowerment and gender justice puts social transformation at the centre of agenda for human development and progress of women.”³ Till recent past, women remained invisible from political process. The situation has however begun to change. But even today very few women are elected in legislation fewer still held top political office, except too, others remain virtually absent from the higher ranks of decision making. Young women’s participation in the political process of development is of crucial importance from consideration of both equity and production. Although women are the partner and contributor to the country’s economy, they are deprived of their rights and enjoy only peripheral status. Young women in general could participate in economic and political activities through organizations. At the village level, Union Parishad is the forum where women members could develop themselves as political resource persons. In all development efforts, it is seen that social and economic power should have to be backed by political power.

1.3 Democracy International (DI)

Democracy International (DI) a United States based organization, is implementing a 5 year program entitled Democratic Participation and Reform (DPR) funded by the American People through USAID. The first year program activity of DI is to enhance grass roots participation through strengthening the political engagement of women and youth in political parties and move broadly in political activities. DI will establish 7 regional youth and women centers (two already started functioning) create a young leaders fellowship programs, launch and awareness campaign consisting of series of town hall meetings to inform women and youth on ways to participate in the political process and implement micro-activities under grant-program helping to encourage, provide fund for innovative youth and women focused projects design by local youths and women groups.

In order to achieve these, DI has conducted a study on the Political Perception and Engagement of Young Wo/men of Bangladesh. Democracy Watch, renowned NGO has given all logistic support to finalize the study.

1.4 Objective of the Study

- I. To assess the awareness level of young wo/men of the political process of the country
- II. To enhance participation of young wo/men through strengthening the political engagement of wo/men in political activities

1.5 Methodology of the Study

Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies were applied for the study.

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1. Activities of the Department of Youth Development at a Glance, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Bangladesh, 2011
 2. President Nelson Mandela: 'Youth and Nation Building in South Africa' STEVE MOKWENA, pg-69
 3. Introduction, Women's Economic Empowerment and the World UNIFEM Progress of the World's Women, 2000, pg-7

Chapter 2

Findings of Qualitative Study

2. Introduction

A qualitative study conducted by Democracy International in February 2012 explored in detail the nature of political perception and engagement of young men and women in Bangladesh. Seven Focus Group Discussions were conducted with young wo/men in a number of locations that is 3 in Dhaka, Gazipur and Mymensing (In Dhaka Division) 3 in Comilla and Chittagong (in Chittagong Division) 1 in Khulna (In Khulna division). The groups were mainly composed of mixed gender. A total number of 46 young women and 41 young men participated in seven focus group discussion. There are students, teachers, and political activists, UP member, NGO workers, house managers, petty businessmen and service holder in the groups. Four FGD were held in urban setting and 3 were in rural area. Following table depicts the picture of FGD. One focus group discussion has been arranged exclusively for young women.

2.1 Table-Detail of Focus Group Participants

Sl. No.	Location	Stratum	No. of Participants	Female	Male
1	Comilla	Rural	9	1	8
2	Chittagong	Urban	9	1	8
3	Chittagong	Urban	15	11	4
4	Dhaka	Urban	10	3	7
5	Gazipur	Rural	15	15	0
6	Mymensing	Rural	15	10	5
7	Khulna	Urban	14	5	9
Total			87	46	41

2.2 Age Range

According to National Youth Policy, Youth is defined as young men and women in the age range of 18-35 years. For this reason the participants in both the qualitative and quantitative research were age 18 to 35.

It is observed that when there is mixed group females feel shy to discuss, males try to dominate. Political activists are strong debater and vocal in the discussion. Students are more extrovert than the non-students group. But when there is exclusive women's group the participants are very free and frank in participatory discussion.

2.3 Summary of FGD Findings

Focus group assessed view of young wo/men on politics, voting, political party, democracy etc.

- Most of the FGD participants participate in family decision making process
- Research findings claim that young people are not politically apathetic and in fact, their interest in political issues is growing.
- Politicians themselves are responsible to alienate young men and women from the political process, perceiving them as selfish, terrorist and corrupt young people often portray them in a negative way.
- No programs and initiatives by GO/NGO have been introduced in an attempt to enhance young wo/men's political participation.
- All of them opined that, political participation of women is less in Bangladesh. These are due to restriction of family and community, patriarchal attitude, pressure of domestic works, financial crisis and lack of security.
- They admitted the positive role of political parties as promotion of democracy, education, development of women, agriculture, skill training of youth, and infrastructure development happen due to positive step of political parties.
- Focus group discussion revealed the views of young men and women concerning the political process. Many of the views expressed by the young wo/men concerning politics are very interesting. Most of the young people felt that they could contribute to politics if the political parties are not egoistic, selfish and corrupt. They also referred to criminality and terrorism, which they felt, dominated the political parties. The young people felt the need for more education and information on politics in school and college.
- None of the participants had been involved in any form of citizenship education and they felt that this would have been very significant for them. Those who are urban students are more informed and interested in political discussion. Some respondents felt that, there was a lack of education and understanding about politics and political issues and that did not encourage them to become involved.
- A group of participants felt that, politicians exploit and misuse the youths for their own interest. So their politics do not do any benefit to them. FGD participants who were involved in politics, their interest arose from a family involvement in politics. This had encouraged them to participate in politics. Family involvement had been major incentives in encouraging them to join particular party politics.
- Most of the participants commented that, political parties are male dominated though the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader are women, the number of women representation is less in decision making process.
- The participants were interested in voting. Those who could not vote in last election will go for vote in the future elections. They are confident to cast vote according to their own choice without being influenced by anybody.
- Few participants had become frustrated with the conflicting situation of the existing two big parties. Most of them opined that, youth should participate in politics. The majority of participants felt that, there was a need for more education on politics and political issues and would welcome citizenship education through some organizations.
- A number of recommendations were developed which would encourage political participation of young people. The suggestions centered on the factors that were turning young men and

women from politics. Their expectations to the political parties are terrorism free politics, making political parties more youth-friendly, Patriotism, they must have patience and bear moral values in their thoughts and deeds, consistency between their words and deeds, they should understand the real meaning of politics, and they need political education.

Chapter 3

FGD Findings in Details

3.1 Decision making in the family:

FGD participants were asked about their role in decision making in the family. Only four participants in Comilla can take part in decision making process in the family. Rests (five) of the youth have no role in family decision making. In Chittagong, out of nine participants five can participate in family decision making. FGD participants in Dhaka can decide in choosing their study, to keep the name of the newly born children, opinion about the marriage of the family member. They can also take decision about their marriage. But only one participant replied that he could not take decision about his study. Family compelled him to select his study.

In Gazipur, out of fifteen female participants, 14 participants replied that, they can take decision in the family. They can decide about their study, marriage and other family matter. But three of them told that their guardians were hesitant to send them to FGD but as it are exclusively for the female so they permitted them to participate in FGD.

“Our guardians have allowed us to participate in FGD because it is exclusively for girls”- FGD Gazipur

In Khulna, out of 15, six can take decisions in family matter. Nine young men and women depend on the decision of the parents/husbands. Out of 15 participants in Mymensing six can take decision in family matter. Nine young men and women depend on the decision of the parents/husband. 14 of 15 participants in Chittagong can participate in the decision making process in the family. Only one participant who is about 19 years old cannot participate in decision making. Her parents decide everything. Most of the participants opined that they can take decision on issues on family matters like marriage, study, purchasing land, job, planning of house etc. It is a very positive sign that 67% (58 out of 87 participants) can participate in family decision-making process. In the traditional society of Bangladesh, it creates optimism for us.

3.2 Political participation

Out of nine participants in Comilla, four replied that they participate in political activities. Two participate only in political meeting and procession. One is the president of a political organization in local level. Another one is the organizing secretary of a political party. They participate in politics as influenced by the senior members of the family. In Chittagong, out of nine five participate in politics. Two of them take part in political activities i.e. meeting procession etc. One is engaged in rural development work through political party. One is associated with the cultural wing of a political party. One participant is the vice-president of a political organization. He takes part in meeting and procession. In Dhaka, among ten participants four participate in politics. One started his political career due to

family influence. He was associated with a political party from his student life. He is a direct member of a political party. Another two are related with the cultural wings of political parties. One participates in “Street drama” and another related with organizing political songs. One participant was connected with the politics of “Shibir” (a religion based political organization) but he does not belong to that party now because he does not believe in the “ideals” of that party. Sometimes they join the procession. Political awareness of the family encourages them to join politics. Some books on politics motivated them.

“Because we love our country, Patriotism is a part of politics so we participate in politics” FGD Dhaka

“Through political participation, we can go to the general mass directly” FGD-Khulna

“Culture - patriotism and politics are co-related, cultural wing of the political party is good. Attachment with the political party strengthens the cultural organization”. FGD-Dhaka

“Politics is an ideal, so we follow it” FGD-Chittagong

These indicate that, in explaining the reasons for political participation, young people have responded boldly.

In Gazipur, three participants participate in political activities; one young woman is a UP member. She leads the “Shalish” to settle petty disputes in her village. She also joins political meeting. Her husband is a politician so she can participate in politics without any obstacle.

“As a UP member I participate in ‘Shalish’ settling conflict on land and other disputes, I also join political meeting”- FGD Gazipur

Another participant is the president of an NGO. It is an organization for mentally and physically challenged children. She joins political meeting. She is a representative of “gram sarker”. Her elder brother is a politician. She is influenced by him. One woman is member of the standing committee of union Parishad. She demanded construction of a road in her village.

“Community people identify me as a ‘Bad girl’. Political parties also do not encourage more women in their parties”- FGD Gazipur

All young women agreed that women should participate in politics. Through political participation they will get more information about the country. They can identify the corrupt politician. They can

differentiate between right and wrong. They can also participate in the main stream of national development.

FGD participants opined that, positive side of political activities is that, it enhances education and promotes legal action.

“Political participation of women can be enhanced through awareness program of the family. Community should realize that politics is not destructive. Politics is for the welfare of the people. It will enhance the dignity of women”-FGD Gazipur

In Mymensing, one male and one female youth participate in politics. One is a member of a political committee another participate in procession. They joined politics because of family background. In Chittagong, six participants are either directly or indirectly connected with politics. One young woman is the president of Upazilla Awami League, one young woman is the joint secretary of local B.N.P. They participated in politics from student life. They also attend political meetings. Another three male students indirectly participate in politics. Two students are supporters of ‘Islami Chattra Shibir’, another is member of B.N.P.

They opined that, leaders should be elected democratically. Political environment should be conducive. Awareness programme on the positive side of politics. Real history of political process of the country should be open to the youths.

*“Real political history of the country should be incorporated in the text book, good practice of the politics should be shared by grass root level workers”
-FGD Dhaka*

Political leaders should be given due recognition. Major political parties should bring good and skilled grass root level worker in their mainstream. Practice of democracy is necessary. Leaders should be patriot. Youth feel that, they can rectify the political parties through constructive criticism. They can give suggestion to the organization. Political participation of youth ensures welfare of the people which will bring national development.

Discipline of the party mandate and accountability attract us”- FGD student, Chittagong.

“I joined politics to ensure the rights of women”- Female participant, Chittagong

“We can earn the leadership qualities through political participation”- Female participant, Chittagong

3.3 Positive role of politics

Corruption can be controlled through the political intervention. Road and highways are being improved because of political interference. Schools and college are set up.

“Politics without terrorism is conducive for the country”-FGD Comilla

Political participation of youth ensures welfare of the people which will bring national development. Patriotism is a part of politics.

3.4 Negative role of politics

FGD participants also perceive the negative role of politics.

“Politics is dirty. Students are exploited by the politician. Politicians force the students to join political meeting” -FGD Comilla

“Politics is full of conflict there is fighting always .so I do not participate” -FGD Dhaka.

There is no consistency of words and deeds of the politicians. So nobody inspired them to participate in politics. The politicians do not have any positive political ideal. There is negative attitude of the family about the politics. For all these reasons they do not participate in politics.

“I do not like politics because it is dirty”- Female participant, FGD, Chittagong
“People who participate in politics, they want some lucrative post”-FGD, Chittagong

They do not participate because of the worst condition of politics. Three participants said that because of family barrier they cannot participate in politics. Another one opined that the political activities are not acceptable.

3.5 Participation of women in politics:

Barriers

FGD participants opined that participation of women in politics is less. Women face obstacles from the family, society and religion. Conservative attitude of the society hinders women to participate in politics. Political parties discourage participation women in their parties. Parents and husband do not like that, women participate in politics. Pressure of work in the family is also responsible for non participation. Bad comments of people inhibit participation. Lack of security is another reason for not participation in politics. There are lots of obstacles to participate in politics. One of these is early marriage because girls are busy with domestic affairs. They cannot give time. There is ‘Pardah System’ which hinders women’s political participation.

“Women are considered ‘unfit’ for politics” - FGD, Gazipur

“Women do not have money. For political participation, money is needed”- FGD, Chittagong

“Empowerment of women is a part of politics”- FGD, Chittagong

*“I feel insecure to join politics”
-FGD, Dhaka*

All the participants agreed to the point that, family and social barrier is mainly responsible for non-participation of women in politics. Lack of security is another cause. Political parties also do not encourage the entry of women in politics.

FGD participants suggest that, awareness programme through union Parishad can promote political participation of women. Spread of female education will enhance political participation. Community should encourage political participation of young women. Conducive environment of women need to be created. If the environment is conducive and security is ensured, more women will participate in politics. Women’s decision should be valued. Role of women in Liberation War should be highlighted. *Quota* should be reserved for the women in the political parties. Social obstacles should be removed.

3.5.1 Political Participation of Women: An Analysis

Qualitative study reveals that, women who want to participate in politics find that the political, public, cultural and social environment is unfriendly to them. Especially the young women face numerous obstacles in articulating their own interest. Men dominate the political arena. Political life is organized according to male norms. Political life is based on competition, confrontation and in some cases terrorism which make the life of women insecure. Whole political environment is alien to them. Young women those who are engaged in politics struggle to balance family life with the demand to political work. They play important role in comparing and mobilizing support for their parties yet they cannot occupy decision-making positions. It is very difficult for a young woman to make up her mind to enter politics.

In order to empower and enable young women to participate in politics, it is necessary to extend the scope of women’s involvement at the grass-root level. The socio economic obstacles affecting young women’s participation in politics could be classified as follows

- ✓ Gender ideology, cultural patterns, as well as pre-determined social roles argued t men and women
- ✓ Patriarchal attitude
- ✓ Obstacles form the family
- ✓ Social stigma
- ✓ Absence of education and training systems for orienting young women towards political life
- ✓ Pressure of work in the domestic sphere
- ✓ Terrorism in politics
- ✓ Financial insecurity
- ✓ Women’s low self-esteem and self-confidence
- ✓ Perception of politics as risky and dirty
- ✓ The tailoring of political institutions are of male standard
- ✓ Lack of support from the political party to involve more women
- ✓ Lack of support from NGO and civil society

Supported by certain cultural patterns which do not facilitate women’s access to political careers. Women have no base from which to develop contacts with the people or to build knowledge and experience about political issues. Furthermore, they have no money of their own. The money belongs to their fathers, their husbands or their in laws. “Given the rising cost of running an effective campaign this poses another serious hurdle for women in the developing world.” Razia Faiz, Former MP, Bangladesh

The young women participate in politics due to the influence of father, brother or father in law. Suggestion to enhance women’s participation in politics include terrorism free politics, support from the family.

Encouragement and gender-sensitive environment of the political party is needed. Women who are involved in grass-root level organization usually participate in politics.

3.5.2 How to enhance political participation of women

Most of the respondents opined that awareness program for the family member and community people to support political participation of women, its utility for the overall national development of the country will enhance political participation. Women are overworked and overburdened in the family. Male participation in domestic reproductive work will reduce their workload. If we analyze gender division of labor we find that women’s participation in community work is less. This traditional role should be changed through continuous gender training for both men and women. Until and unless there is a change in patriarchal attitude, political participation cannot be improved.

Financial crisis is also important to join political meeting and procession. Women need money for transportation. But as they are dependent on father, brother, husband and son for monetary matters, it

is difficult for them to take money from them to go out for political purpose. Meeting of political party is not also conducive for women. If it is held at night, women cannot participate.

Women are also afraid of political vandalism. When there is political conflict, women feel insecure. Sometimes the women who participate in politics become victim of scandal. So the environment of the political party should be women friendly.

In order to improve all these, the civil society, NGO have an important role. In order to empower and enable women to participate in politics, it is necessary to extend the scope of women's involvement at the grass-root level. Women should be financially self-sufficient through self-employment in order to enhance political participation.

3.6 Positive role of political parties

Participants were asked to explain the positive role of political parties. They respond a lot. People's welfare activities are ensured. Economic development is going on. Because of good political party good education policy is implemented. Intervention of political party reduces the terrorism. Political party organizes positive training program for the youth. There is agricultural development because Minister of agriculture is a committed political leader.

Introduction of scientific digital system is the contribution of good political party. Security of the country is ensured. Political parties are pioneer in enhancing female education. The youths are utilized. There is youth wing of the political party. Political parties give an opportunity of decision making for the youths. Constructive competition among the political parties is good.

The youths are highlighted. Arrangement for skill training and employment has been done for the youth. Vocational education for the youth is promoted. Arrangement of Bank loan for the youth is going on. Youths are encouraged in the political party. They encourage the youths in different activities which keep the youths away from drug addiction. Leadership qualities are developed among youths through the political parties. Political parties make the youth self-reliant. Youths learn social accountability from the political parties. Youths learn patience and patriotism from political parties. There is youth wing of the political parties. Political parties give an appropriate decision making for the youth.

Infrastructure facilities are increased. People are getting enough information. They are thinking about the peace and security of the country. Political parties are pioneer in enhancing female education. Constructive competition among the political parties is good. There must be integrity with word and work of politicians. They should not patronize terrorist. They should value the real talented and quality people. Practice of democracy in the party, elimination of corruption, to engage youth in development work, to keep away the youth from *tender business* (usually some mastans of youth wing of political party try to capture the contract of work by force) will enhance positive role of political parties. Vocational training facilities are arranged for the youth.

"Because of political parties there is democratic government which enhances the promotion of service and technology"-FGD Comilla

3.7 Negative role of political parties

FGD participants expressed their negative attitude about the role of political parties. They explain the reasons also. Political parties do not pay emphasize on population control program. They use musclemen in their politics. They patronize the terrorists and criminals. They involve in oppression for inducing violence against women. Some of them rape the women. They are responsible for price hike.

*“Lack of patience and co-operation is visible among the political parties”
-FGD Comilla*

Secret killing of the youth is going on. Corruption is rampant. Loss in share market is a blow for the people . Destructive programs are held. Dubious role of the party is not acceptable. They are busy with negative publicity of opponent party.

“There is no consistency between commitment from the central body and that of the bottom level”- FGD Dhaka

Big industrialist becomes bank defaulter because of the patronage of the political party. Political party has alliance with businessmen, teacher and terrorist. Corruption and misuse of power and selfishness of the party is common.

“There is no practice of democracy within the party”- FGD Gazipur

There is lack of commitment among the political leader. They do not have patriotism. Politics is business for them.

They do not have any control on their youth wing. They are exploiting the youth through bribing and alluring them. There is nobody to lead the youth. Lack of commitment of the political leaders. They do not have patriotism.

*“They are exploiting the youth through bribing and alluring them”
FGD Gazipur.*

Youth are made addicts. Students are exploited in the name of politics. They participate politics for their self-interest. Violence in the politics is the cause of killing the young students. Lack of security and democracy in the politics pollute the youths. Political parties encourage the youths to grow as toll-collector. Youths are used as the pet of the political parties.

3.8 How to improve the quality of politics:

The young wo/men suggested a lot about improving the quality of politics. Steps should be taken to eliminate corruption. Students should not be exploited by the political parties.

“We have to reject the politics of violence. Political parties should be passionate and compromising”- FGD Gazipur

“Behavioral changes of the politicians are needed so that they cannot use the youths for vandalism and terrorism”-FGD Dhaka

“We expect healthy politics”-FGD Comilla

If politics ensures transparency and accountability then it will be acceptable. Polluted politics should be stopped. Right use of power should be ensured. Youth power should be utilized in right way. There should be consistency with the words and deeds of the political parties. There must be ideology in the politics.

“There must be provision in the constitution of the parties for electing the leader in a democratic way”- FGD Chittagong

They also suggested that, flattery should be rejected, decision of the youth should be valued, political parties should work not for the party but for the country, leaders should be gentle.

Problems should be solved through dialogue. We are optimistic about the introduction of healthy politics”- FGD Chittagong

Inter-group and intra-group terrorism should be removed. Political party should restore the fundamental rights of people. Seminars organized by civil society will help. They also suggested to include political education in school curriculum to improve the condition. Attitude of the family should be changed. The benefit of women’s participation in politics should be highlighted. This will enhance participation of women.

3.9 Expectation from the Political Parties

The youths have big expectations from political parties. Political parties should remove youth unemployment. The youth should be equipped with skill training. Political parties should shun the politics of violence and power.

Youths should be accepted as they are. They should not be treated as means of different political parties. There should not be any discrimination. They should not be victim of political cliques. - FGD, Chittagong

The businessmen should not be involved themselves in politics. The politicians should be well aware of politics then they can join politics. They need to earn patriotism and moral education before

participating in politics. They should have patience and moral values. Bureaucratic politics should be avoided. Illiterate and uneducated person with corrupt money should not join politics.

“One UP chairman of my area is a businessman. He has no education and political awareness. Suddenly because of money, he is elected as UP chairman. How this man can settle the issues of VAW and other important issues”?
-FGD Chittagong

3.10 Source of political information

Participants were asked about the sources of political information. They reply that, Political information is available through radio, television, news paper, youth club or organization. News paper and media have important role to disseminate political information. Youth receive information through Internet, Mobile, website, organization and speech in the political meeting. Youths should be sensitized through media. There must be transparency in the media.

They also get information through their organization. Role of right information is very important for the youth. So they suggest that mass media should present objective information. More youth should join in talk show. Debates are arranged with the mock parliament. It is very useful for the youth. But they do not know about any NGO or civil societies who give them any information about politics. They have only attended festival of youth recently organized by Democracy International in Chittagong.

3.11 Voting Issues

Most of the participants have cast their votes in last election. They cast it according to their own will.

“There was violence in patharghata, one man was trying to canvass inside the polling booth which is not legal, I informed the police but they did not take action. Once that man was pulling one of my female voter I was compelled to drive away him forcibly from the polling booth”- One female, FGD, Chittagong.

Most of the cases, reporting of violence are less. They all opine that, voting is a citizen right. All should realize it.

“We should enhance political participation through casting our votes”-FGD, Comilla

3.12 Role of NGO and civil society

It is quite frustrating that, the participants do not know about any NGO or civil society who raise awareness on political participation. They do not know about any organization which can give them

political education. All of them suggested for political education for them. Only in Mymensing, participants mentioned about Democracy Watch and Mymensing citizen movement who work for political awareness for the youth.

3.13 Need for political education

All the participants opined that, there is need for political education. They want to be well-informed about the country politics. If they get education, they will not be cheated by the politicians. The youths will not be exploited by the politicians. They identified the following issues for education.

- Ideology of different political parties
- Constitution of political parties
- Democracy
- Constitution of the country
- Citizenship rights
- Role of the women members in the Union Parishad
- Duties of office bearers of local government
- Voting and election
- Parliament
- Leadership
- Good governance
- Right and duties of citizen
- Manifesto of the political party
- Fair election
- Workshop to raise political awareness
- Human rights education

The participants strongly felt that, if any organization arranges capacity building for the above issues, youths would be highly benefited. They will be effective leaders. They can judge the election. They will be self-confident. They can judge right or wrong of the politics. They want to attend the workshop on politics. Rural youths should be given priority

Chapter-4

Demographic Profile of Quantitative Survey

This section documents the findings from the quantitative survey. In total 160 young people, aged 18-35 were surveyed throughout Bangladesh with 8 district areas. The sample consisted of 84 young women 76 young men. Following table shows the number of young people surveyed within the area, category of occupation, marital status and stratum.

4.1 Area

	Frequency	Percent
Bogra	20	12.5
Chittagong	20	12.5
Mymensingh	20	12.5
Sylhet	20	12.5
Rajshahi	20	12.5
Rangpur	20	12.5
Khulna	20	12.5
Barisal	20	12.5
Total	160	100.0

4.2 Occupation

	Frequency	Percent
UP member	21	13.1
NGO worker	18	11.3
Government employee	6	3.8
Student	46	28.8
Political worker	19	11.9
House manager	24	15.0
Teacher	12	7.5
Business	13	8.1
Farmer	1	.6
Total	160	100.0

4.3 Marital Status

		Frequency	Percent
	Married	102	63.8
	Unmarried	58	36.3
	Total	160	100.0

4.4 Stratum

		Frequency	Percent
	Rural	81	50.6
	Urban	50	31.3
	Metropolitan area	29	18.1
	Total	160	100.0

4.5 Sex

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Male	76	47.5
	Female	84	52.5
	Total	160	100.0

Chapter 5

Summary of Quantitative Findings

- 88% young people can participate in decision making process in family.
- 49% respondents participate in politics.
- Youth under study are interested to participate in politics because it develops civic responsibility (34%). 19% reply that politics flourishes leadership qualities, 18% consider that from politics they can learn democratic values, 16% are interested in politics because stability and security of the country can be rested through politics. 13% are interested because it enhances freedom of speech.
- Out of 160 respondents over one-fifth expressed very interest, two fifth of them said they are quite interested and another 13% were not at all interested in politics.
- Young participants under study identify many reasons for not being interested in politics. 26% are disinterested because of constant political violence, 20% for endemic corruption rooted in politics, 16% for empty promises by politicians, 14% for political parties are not fulfilling their obligation to citizens.
- Young people under the study seek different types of support to improve the quality of politics. 11% require the need for 'corruption free politics' and for creating democratic environment, 10% reply to 'prevent violence in politics', 9% for 'competent leadership'.
- In response to seeking support from the political parties for involving the youth in political process: 11% young people expect 'democratic practice' from political party, 5% respondent suggest for 'political stability', political knowledge, corruption free environment and right evaluation for political worker.
- They reported that, young women do not involve themselves in politics. One third of their response identify the reason as patriarchal mentality of the society, another quarter of them reply that, women are less willing in politics, slide above one third of them responded that women have less aptitude in politics, 11% of them said that, women do not understand politics and 8% reply women have less intelligence than men. All these responses reveal the gender blind attitude of the young men and women. The root cause of women's less participation in politics is 'patriarchy' which gives birth to 'less willingness' 'less aptitude' and 'less intelligence'.
- More than a quarter (27%) respondents express that political parties rarely keep their promises. And slide less than a quarter (27%) reply that they disappear after election. Almost one-fifth say that political parties face a collective crisis of credibility, 16% reply that, the politicians do not have any ethical values.
- Almost all young people (95%) opted for a democratic political system.
- 84% respondents disagree with the statement that, having strong leader who rules with no elections. It is an indication of the fact that, young people value the democratic process.
- They consider that, expert decision maker should involve all in decision making process.
- 85% felt the need for education for good governance, four out of every fifth respondents want education for human rights and almost the same of them want education for leadership development, three fourths of young men and women want a national policy for development

of women, another 76% want training on transparency for citizenship, 71% for election and gender issue, 79% for local government.

- In response to the question 'how much trust you have on the works they do' army gets the highest score (54%) followed by religious leaders (36%) and media (31%). A quarter of respondents have total trust on national NGO and almost same (24%) have on judges and 23% on human right commission.
- 9% youth consider system development through youth organization, 6% young wo/men reply to resist non-democratic decision, 5% young wo/men respond that to develop protection against illegal activities, straggle for expected political situation, develop system through hones leader and to speak against the corruption of the party, 29% respondent do not know the rule of youth to improve politics.
- 91% respondents agree that, democracy may have problems, but it is the best ruling system. It is a good sign that, young men and women are the pioneer in supporting democracy.
- Participants identify the major issue of Bangladesh as population (14% participants), political unrest (13% participants), corruption (12% population), education and unemployment (10% participants) poverty (9% participants) and terrorism (7% participants)

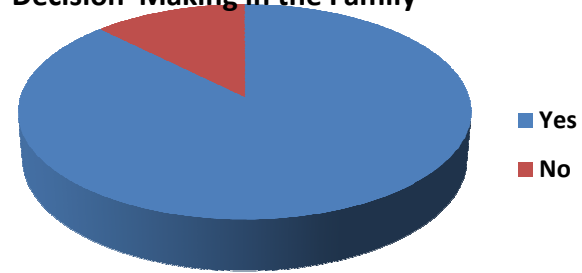
Chapter 6

Quantitative Findings in Details

6.1 Ability to Participate in Decision Making in Family

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	140	87.5
No	20	12.5
Total	160	100.0

Fig-6.1: Have Ability to Participate in Decision Making in the Family



6.2 Matters where youth can participate in decision making in the family

	Frequency	Percentage
They don't participate	18	11.3
In shopping, education	10	6.3
Economic activities	3	1.9
In every activities	51	31.9
All the decision taken by discussion with others	2	1.3
Direct participation in decision making	24	15.0
Main decision maker	6	3.8
To discuss with others	5	3.1
Seek my opinion, but not assess every time	5	3.1
seek my opinion and assess every time	2	1.3
Discuss with others	2	1.3
Take decision with participation of all family member	22	13.8
Take decision individually	8	5.0
Not applicable	2	1.3
Total	160	100.0

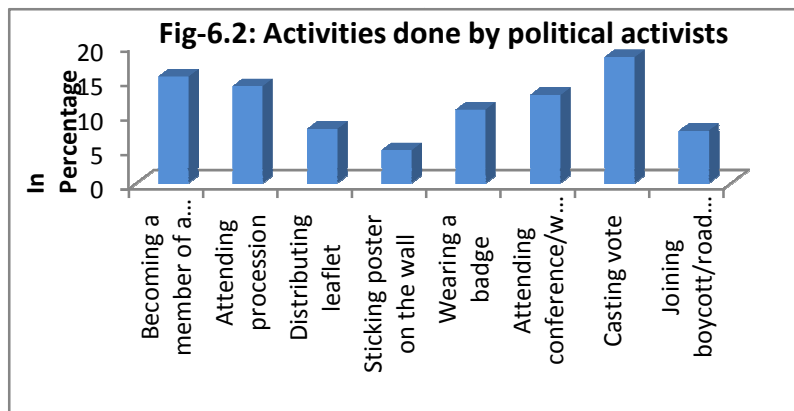
88% of young men and women participated in the study can participate in decision making in the family and they participate in every activities (32%). Another 15% can directly participate in decision making and 14% take decision with participation of all family members. In contrast 11% respondents do not participate in family decision making although 6% of them can take decision for shopping and education.

6.3 Participation in Politics

59% out of 160 young wo/men do not participate in politics

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	66	41.3
No	94	58.8
Total	160	100.0

6.4 Activities to participate

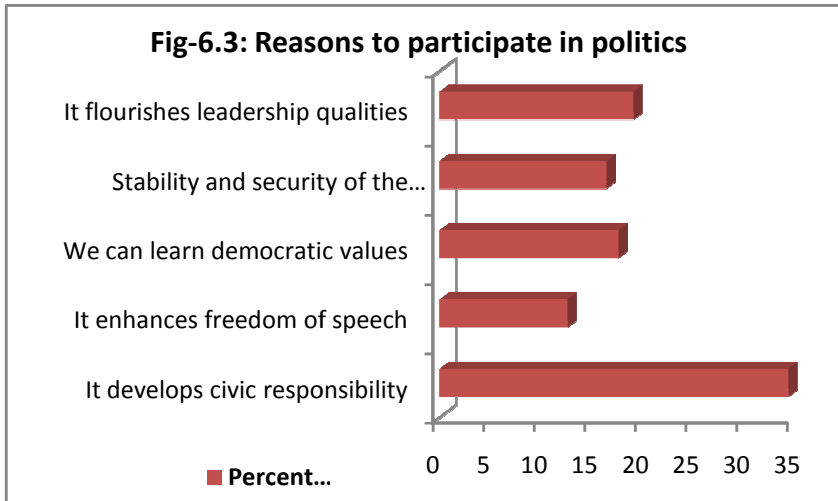


18% respondent participate in politics through casting vote, 16% are the members of political party, 14% attend procession, 13% attend political conference and workshop, 11% wear political badge, 8% distribute leaflet and join boycott, road march, strike. (See Annexure; Table 6.1 for details)

6.5 Reasons to participate in politics

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
It develop civic responsibility	90	34.4
It enhances freedom of speech	33	12.6
We can learn democratic values	46	17.6
Stability and security of the country can be restored	43	16.4
It flourishes leadership qualities	50	19.1
Total responses	262	100.0

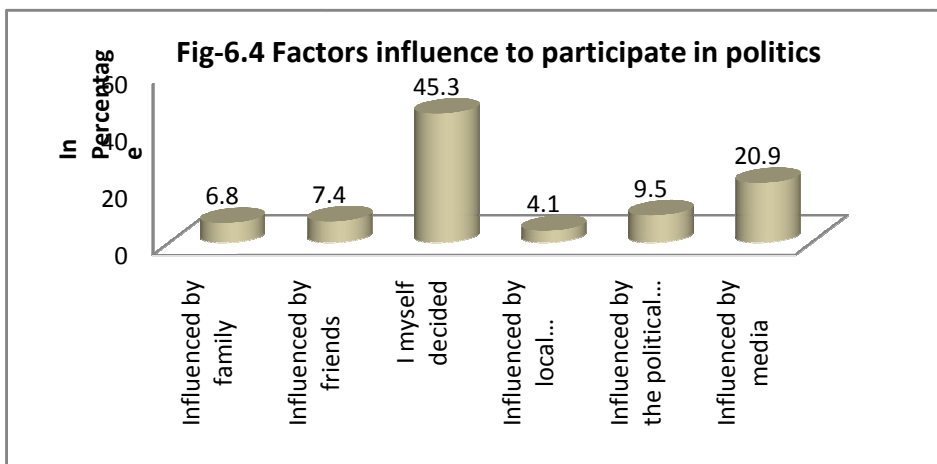
The above table depicts that, 34 percent young people are interested to participate in politics because it develops civic responsibility. 19% think that, it flourishes leadership qualities. Another 18% feel that they can learn democratic values from politics. According to the view of 16% young wo/men stability and security of the country can be restored through political participation.



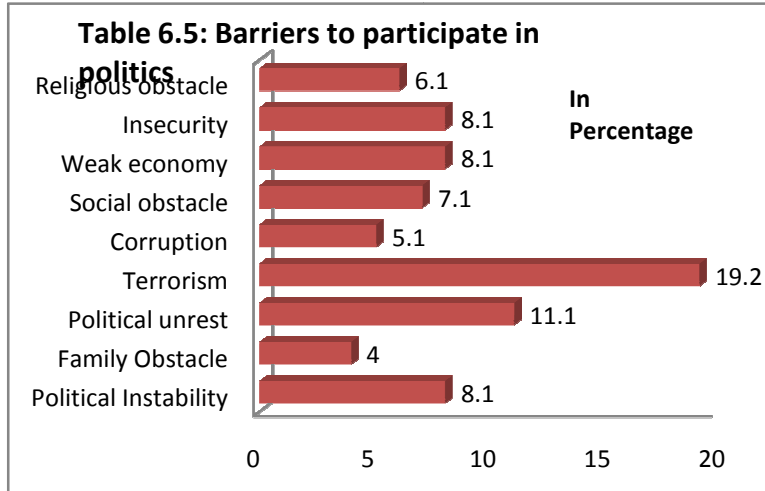
6.6 Factors influence to participate in politics

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Influenced by family	10	6.8
Influenced by friends	11	7.4
I myself decided	67	45.3
Influenced by local community	6	4.1
Influenced by the political party	14	9.5
Influenced by media	31	20.9
None of them	9	6.1
Total responses	148	100.0

45% participants of the study reply that they themselves decide to join politics. 21% are influenced by the political parties, 7% are influenced by either family or friend 4% are influenced by the community.



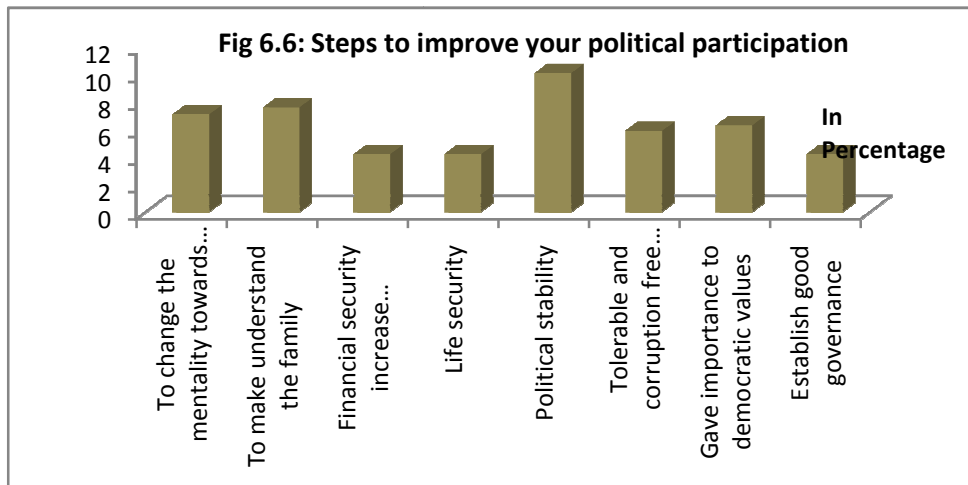
6.7 Barriers to participate in politics



The youths have rightly identified the barriers of political participation. 19% wo/men respond about terrorism, 11% political unrest, 8% political instability, 8% insecurity, 8% weak economy as the barriers of political participation. Other obstacles are family obstacle, corruption, social obstacle, obstacle from the police, dirty political environment, tinted student politics, lack of democratic practice, religious obstacles,

oppression on opposition party, lack of awareness on politics, political clash and professional obstacles. 9% respondents cannot identify the barriers (Annexure; Table 6.2 for details).

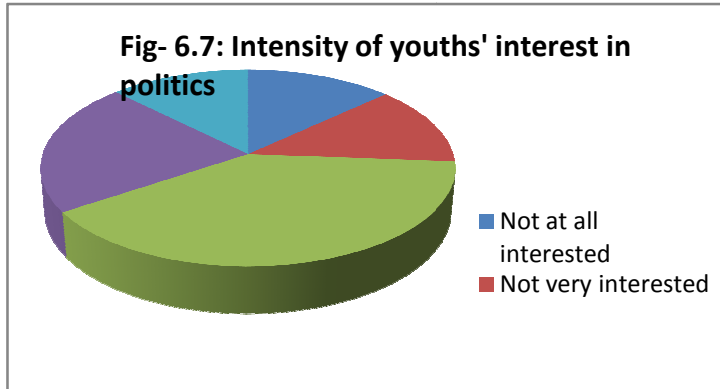
6.8 Steps to improve your political participation



The following steps were suggested by the young wo/men to improve the political participation of young people. 10% reply for political stability, 8% to make understand the family, 7% to change the mentality towards women, 6% tolerable and corruption free

environment and to give importance to democratic values, 4% for establishing good governance, financial security and tolerable environment and clarification of political system. All these steps will definitely enhance the participation of women in politics. Other steps identified by them are financial assistance from party, women's security, develop law and order situation, ensure people's participation, to stop dominance of black money in politics, prevent violence, nurture leader in politics at root level, moral values, create political environment, create political environment for women, establish good governance, reduce administrative obstacles and training. (Annexure; Table 6.3 for details).

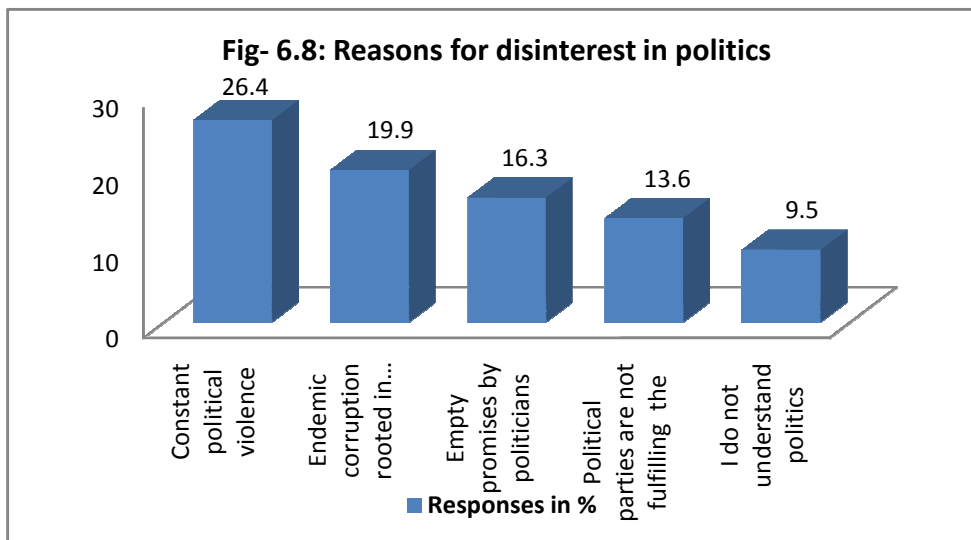
6.9 Intensity of interested in politics



When they were asked how much you are interested in politics, out of 160 respondents 39% said they are quite interested 22% expressed very interest, and another 13% were not at all interested in politics. It indicates the keen interest of young people to involve in politics. (Annexure; Table 6.4 for details.)

6.10 Reasons for Disinterest in Politics

Category label	Count	% of Responses
Constant political violence	89	26.4
Endemic corruption rooted in politics	67	19.9
Empty promises by politicians	55	16.3
No socio-economic development is visible	22	6.5
Confusion about political process	26	7.7
Political parties are not fulfilling the	46	13.6
I do not understand politics	32	9.5
	-----	-----
Total responses	337	100.0



Young participants under study identify many reasons for not being interested in politics. 26% are disinterested because of constant political violence, 20% for endemic corruption rooted in politics, 16% for empty promises by politicians, 14% for political parties are not fulfilling their

obligation to citizens. Only 10% expressed that they do not understand politics. It is also an issue which needs our concern for the youths why they are unconcerned about politics.

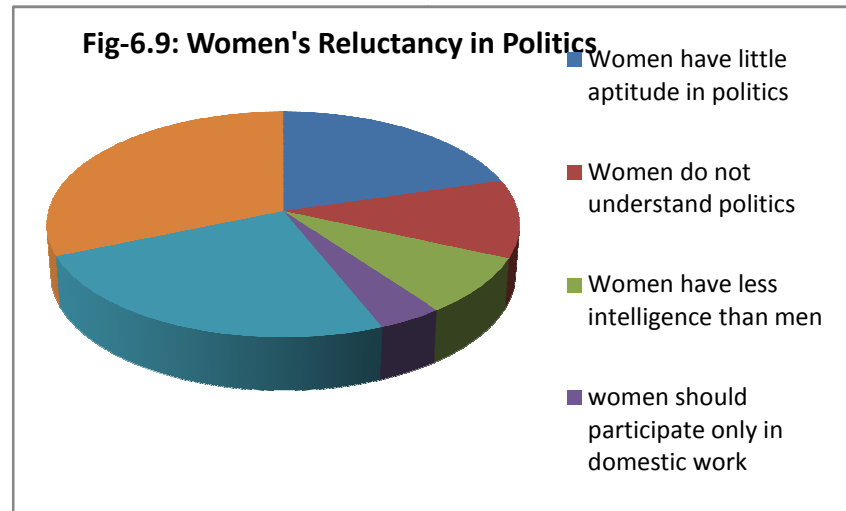
6.11 support political participation of young women

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	126	78.8
	No	34	21.3
	Total	160	100.0

The table reveals that near about 79% support political participation of young women. It indicates the positive attitude of the youth about the issue of women participation.

6.12 Reasons why young women do not involve themselves on politics

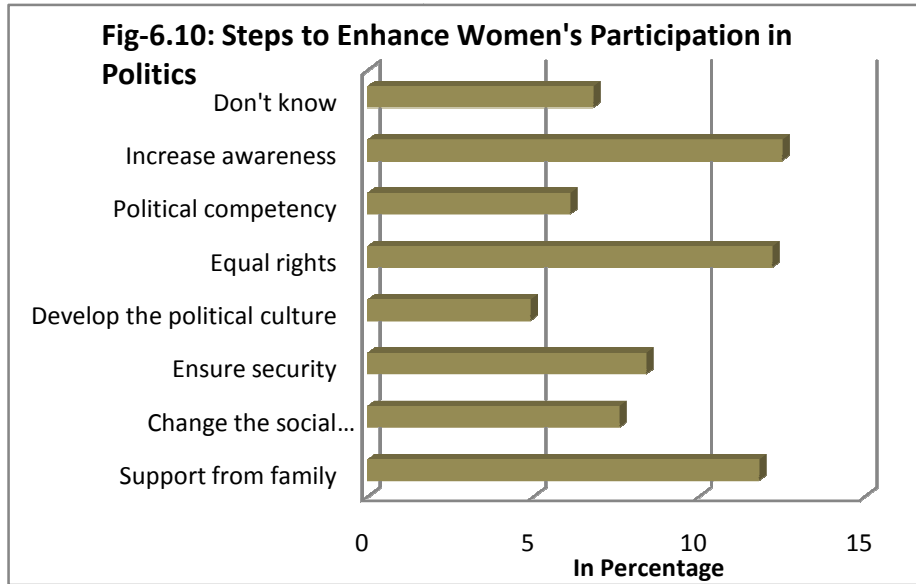
Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Women have little aptitude in politics	62	20.5
Women do not understand politics	34	11.2
Women have less intelligence than men	25	8.3
women should participate only in domestic work	12	4.0
Women are less willing in politics	75	24.8
Because of patriarchal mentality of the society	95	31.4
Total responses	303	100.0



The above table indicates the reasons why young women do not involve themselves in politics. One third of their response identify the reason as patriarchal mentality of the society, another quarter of them reply that, women are less willing in politics, slide above one third of them responded that women have less aptitude in politics, 11% of them said that, women do not understand politics and 8% reply women have less

intelligence than men. All these responses reveal the gender blind attitude of the young men and women. It is interesting that the maximum responses admit that patriarchal attitude inhibits women's participation in politics. The root cause of women's less participation in politics is 'patriarchy' which gives birth to 'less willingness' 'less aptitude' and 'less intelligence'. All these apathetic aptitudes grow from different obstacles of women which are the direct outcome of gender discrimination.

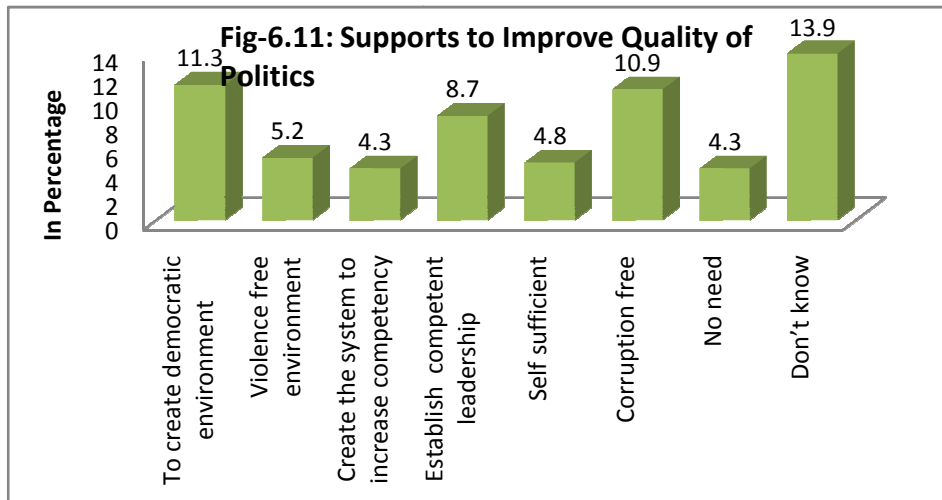
6.13 Steps to Enhance Women's Participation in Politics



The young men and women under the study identify many positive steps which will enhance young women's participation in politics. 13% reply that awareness should be increased, 12% suggest for equal rights of women another 12% opinion goes for 'support from family'. 8% reply 'to ensure security and change the social

perception, 7% could not identify any reason. Other steps includes 'education institution can play role' 'campaigning' etc.(See Table 6.5 in Annexure)

6.14 Types of Support Required Improving the Quality of Politics

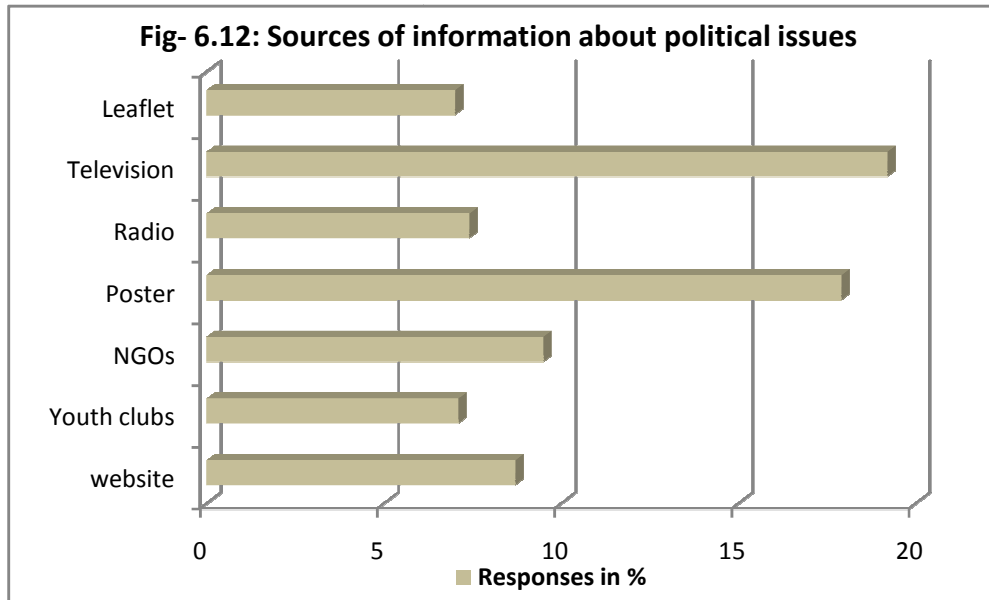


Young people under the study seek different types of support to improve the quality of politics. 11% require the need for 'corruption free politics' and for creating democratic environment, 10% reply to 'prevent violence in politics', 9% for 'competent

leadership'. Other suggestions includes creating new leadership, respecting other parties, to increase more women in committee level, conducting seminars/ meetings by experience ones, access to freedom, establishment of women's rights and security among others.

14% reply in the negative. This is an indication of their apathy to politics. But the responses indicate the farsightedness and keen observation of the young people about politics. They rightly identify the indicators of quality politics as corruption free, democratic, violence free with competent leadership. (See Annexure; Table 6.6 for details)

6.15 Source of Political Information



One fifth of the respondent receives information from television followed by another 18% from posters, 10 percent from NGO, 9% from website, 7% citizenship education at secondary level, 6% through e-mail, and 7% through

newspaper and youth clubs. In modern age, electronic media is much updated to transmit messages. It is strong findings that, only 8% read newspaper for political information. (See Table 6.7 in Annexure)

6.16 About Democracy

6.16.1 In a democracy economic system works poorly

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Agree	63	39.4
	Disagree	97	60.6
	Total	160	100.0

Near about 61% disagree with the statement that, in a democracy economic system works poorly. It implies that, they consider economic system works well in democracy.

6.16.2 Democracies' are not good to establish order

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Agree	35	21.9
	Disagree	125	78.1
	Total	160	100.0

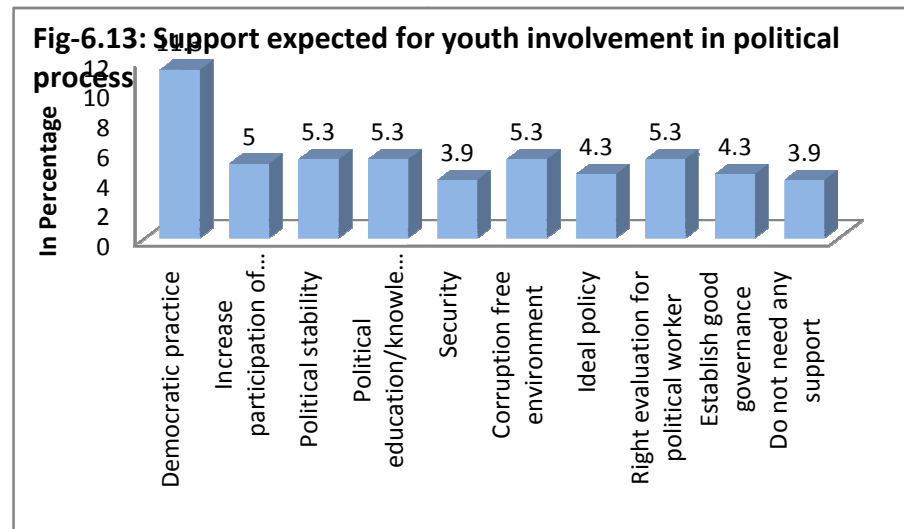
78% participant disagree with the statement that, democracies' are not good to establish order which indicates, democracy is good to establish order.

6.16.3 Democracy may have problems, but it is the best ruling system

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Agree	145	90.6
	Disagree	15	9.4
	Total	160	100.0

91% respondents agree that, democracy may have problems, but it is the best ruling system. It is a good sign that, young men and women are the pioneer in supporting democracy.

6.17 Support Expected from the Political Parties

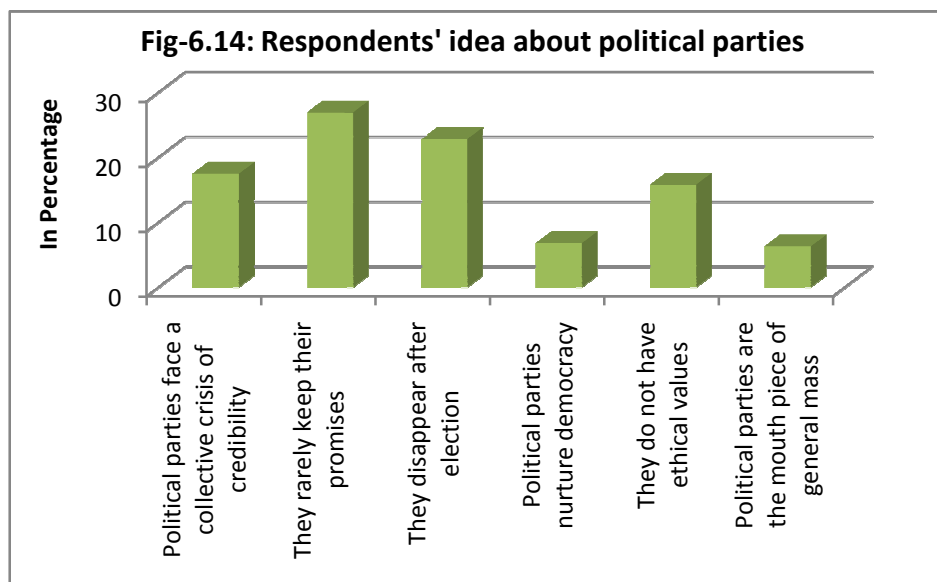


11% young people expect 'democratic practice' from political party, 5% respondent suggest for 'political stability', political knowledge, corruption free environment and right evaluation for political worker. 4% young people want the support of security, ideal policy and good governance from the political parties. Negative side of the response is that 20% young men and women do not know about any issues of political parties which can involve the youth in political process (Table 6.8 in Annexure for details).

11% young people expect 'democratic practice' from political party, 5% respondent suggest for 'political stability', political knowledge, corruption free environment and right evaluation for political worker. 4% young people want the support of security, ideal policy and good governance from the political parties. Negative side of the response is that 20% young men and women do not know about any issues of political parties which can involve the youth in political process (Table 6.8 in Annexure for details).

6.18 Idea about Political Parties in Bangladesh

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Political parties face a collective crisis of credibility	72	17.5
They rarely keep their promises	111	26.9
They disappear after election	94	22.8
Political parties nurture democracy	28	6.8
They ensure development of the country	16	3.9
They do not have ethical values	65	15.8
Political parties are the mouth piece of general mass	26	6.3
Total responses	412	100.0



The above table reveals the idea of young people about the political parties of Bangladesh. More than a quarter (27%) respondents express that political parties rarely keep their promises. And less than a quarter (27%) reply that they disappear after election.

Almost one-fifth say that political parties face a collective crisis of credibility, 16% reply that, the politicians do not have any ethical values. Only 7% reply that political parties as the mouthpiece of the general mass and 4% reply that politicians ensure development of the country. This findings indicate that the negative perception of the young people about the political parties.

6.19 Role of Political Parties Bringing More Women and Youth in Political Process

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Genuine political parties consider youth as an asset of the country	65	21.7
Political parties are alienated from the youth	36	12.0
They exploit youth for their own interest	86	28.7
They have no genuine interest for the youth	43	14.3
They develop the capacity to speak for the youth in their own language	70	23.3
Total responses	300	100.0

Regarding the question of the role of political parties bringing more women and youth in political process, 29% respondents express that the political parties exploit youth for their own interest, 23% reply that, they develop the capacity to speak for the youth in their own language, 22% feel that, genuine political parties consider youth as an asset of the country, 14% has given negative response that political parties have no genuine interest for youth, 12% say that political parties are alienated from the youth. The responses reveal that youths are aware of the both positive and negative side of the political parties.

6.20 Expectation from the Political Parties

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
They should provide youth with the opportunity to participate in the country's local and national development.	108	21.0

They should maintain open and regular communication with citizen	85	16.5
They should ensure democratic values in the country	97	18.8
They should solve the major problems of the country	88	17.1
They should demonstrate interest in citizens beyond just rule	88	17.1
They should render service to the citizen with honest effort	48	9.3
	1	.2
Total responses	515	100.0

Expectation from the political parties' related question reveals the picture of the young wo/men's expectation from the political party. 21% expect that they should provide youth with the opportunity to participate in the country's local and national development, 19% perceive that, they should provide youth with the opportunity to participate in the country's local and national development, 17% expect that they should solve the major problems of the country and demonstrate interest in citizens beyond just rule, another 17% consider that they should maintain open and regular communication with citizen.

6.21 How youth can play role in improving politics and political process of the country

Regarding the question 'how youth can play role in improving politics and political process of the country', 9% youth consider system development through youth organization, 6% young wo/men reply to resist non-democratic decision, 5% young wo/men respond that to develop protection against illegal activities, straggle for expected political situation, develop system through hones leader and to speak against the corruption of the party, 29% respondent do not know the rule of youth to improve politics. it is an issue of concern that a large number of young wo/men do not know their citizenship role. As the future leaders of the country youths must have some contribution to improve the political situation of the country (Annexure; Table 6.9 for details)

6.22 Voting Matters

6.22.1 Have you cast your vote in election 2008?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	127	79.4
	No	33	20.6
	Total	160	100.0

79% men and women, who participate in this study, have cast vote in election 2008. It indicates their positive attitude about election.

6.22.2 Violence against women during election 2008

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	11	6.9
	No	149	93.1
	Total	160	100.0

93% of the participated young men and women did not notice any violence against women during national election

2008 in Bangladesh.

6.23 Factors Encourage Women and Youth in Voting

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Feeling that my vote could make a difference	122	29.0
Feeling that the party I support has a chance of winning	101	24.0
Involving more women in politics	86	20.4
Terrorist candidate refrains to participate in election	88	20.9
Feeling of trust in the politicians	24	5.7
Total responses	421	100.0

Regarding the question of factors that would encourage women and youth in voting in future election, 29% respondents have the feeling that, their vote could make a difference, 24% think that, terrorist candidate refrains to participate in election, 20% expect that, their vote will involve more women in politics. It indicates a positive perception about voting in future election.

6.24 Activities of NGO/INGOs or civil society, which will assist people in political participation

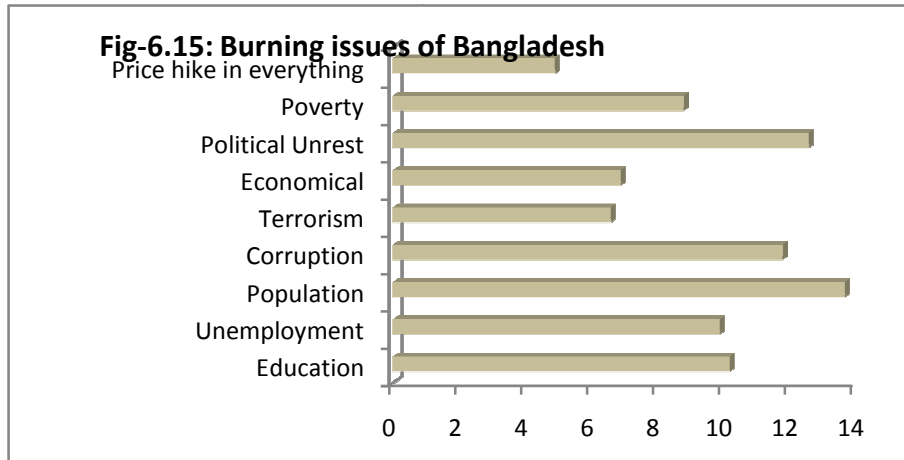
	Frequency	Percent
They work to develop the socio-economic condition	33	20.6
Help to participate in politics	32	20.0
Don't help	14	8.8
Increase political awareness	14	8.8
Give training to increase political values	2	1.3
Helpful for political party	2	1.3
Play role in social change	10	6.3
Assistance in women development	3	1.9
Work for poverty eradication	16	10.0
Work for development of leadership	1	.6
Don't do any activities to develop country	4	2.5
Don't know	29	18.1
Total	160	100.0

21% youth replied that, NGO/INGO or civil society work to develop the socio-economic condition of the country. Another 20% said they help to participate in politics. 18% of them could not tell about the NGO or civil society works although 10% of them replied that they work for poverty eradication. 9% respondent opted that the civil society and NGO/INGO work to increase political awareness and the same percentage of youth said they do not help.

6.25 Organizations that Assist Youth in Political Participation

29% women respond that, BRAC will assist them in political participation. 17% know about ASA, 12% about Grameen Bank, 8% about TMSS, 6% about Proshika and 4% know about Democracy Watch (See Table 6.10 in Annexure for details)

6.26 Burning issues of Bangladesh

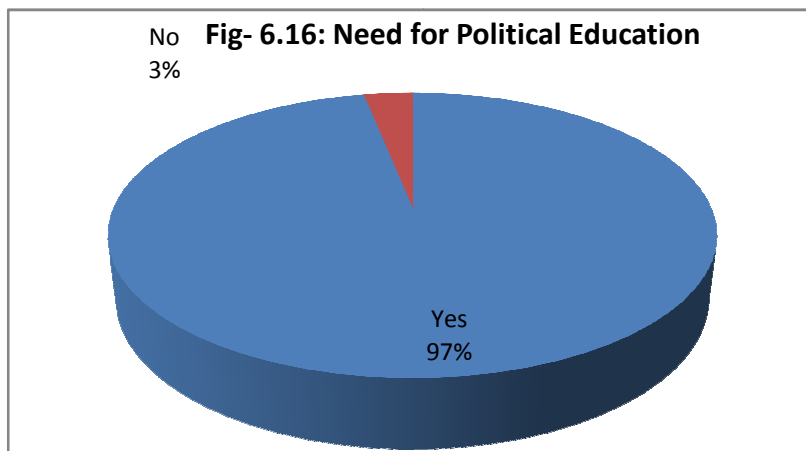


In a response to the major issues of Bangladesh, 14% identify population, 13% political unrest, 12% corruption, 10% education and unemployment, 9% poverty, 7% terrorism and financial problem, 5% price hike s the major issues of Bangladesh. These issues which are pinpointed by young

wo/men are really the burning problems in Bangladesh. These responses indicate that youths are very much conscious about the current problems of the country. (For details, see Table 6.11 in Annexure)

6.27 Need for Political Education

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	155	96.9
	No	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

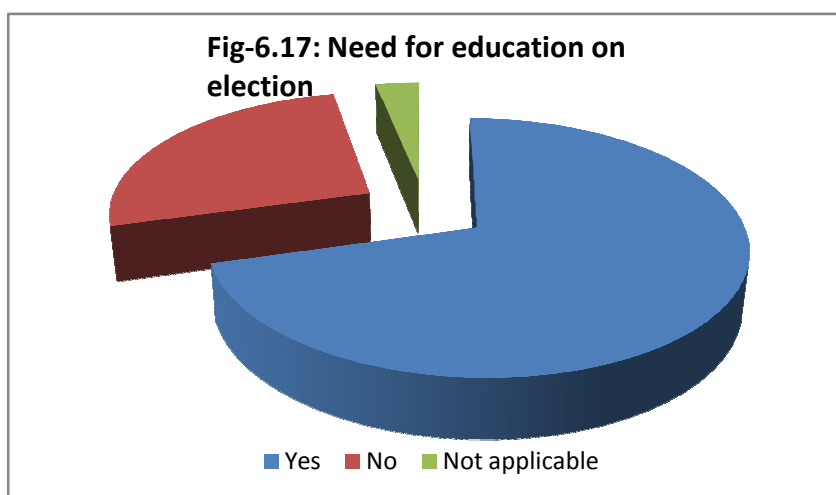


97% young women and men feel the need of any education to enhance your political awareness. It reveals the strong need of the young people to raise their political awareness.

6.28 Need for Further Education

6.28.1 Election

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	113	70.6
No	42	26.3
Not applicable	5	3.1
Total	160	100.0



In response to the question of any need for further education, 85% felt the need for education for good governance, four out of every fifth respondents want education for human rights and almost the same of them want education for leadership development, three fourths of young men and women want a

national policy for development of women, another 76% want training on transparency for citizenship, 71% for election and gender issue, 79% for local government. It indicates the urgent need of the young people for political education, 76% opted for citizenship education, 71% for gender issue, 65% for parliament. It is interesting to note that only 39% opted for education for election fund raising.

6.28.2 Citizenship

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	122	76.3
No	33	20.6
Not applicable	5	3.1
Total	160	100.0

6.28.3 Good governance

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	136	85.0
	No	19	11.9
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.4 Leadership development

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	126	78.8
	No	29	18.1
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.5 Parliament

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	104	65.0
	No	51	31.9
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.6 Local government

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	111	69.4
	No	44	27.5
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.7 National policy for advancement of women

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	122	76.3
	No	33	20.6
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.8 Gender issue

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	113	70.6
	No	42	26.3
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.9 Human rights

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	129	80.6
	No	26	16.3
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.10 Life-skill education

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	91	56.9
	No	64	40.0
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.11 Election Campaign

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	89	55.6
	No	66	41.3
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.12 Public Speaking

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	106	66.3
	No	49	30.6
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.13 Election fund raising

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	63	39.4
	No	92	57.5
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.14 Advocacy

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	105	65.6
	No	50	31.3
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.28.15 Transparency

		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	122	76.3
	No	33	20.6
	Not applicable	5	3.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.29 Best System to Rule the Country

6.29.1 Having strong leader who rules with no elections

		Frequency	Percent
	Agree	26	16.3
	Disagree	134	83.8
	Total	160	100.0

84% respondents disagree with the statement that, having strong leader who rules with no elections. It is an indication of the fact that, young people value the democratic process. They do not support any dictator

6.29.2 Having expert decision makers who act following what they think it is best

		Frequency	Percent
	Agree	38	23.8
	Disagree	122	76.3
	Total	160	100.0

More than three-fourths of the respondents disagree with the statement that, having expert decision makers who act following what they think it is best. They consider that, expert decision maker should involve all in decision-making process.

6.29.3 Having a democratic political system

		Frequency	Percent
	Agree	152	95.0
	Disagree	8	5.0
	Total	160	100.0

Almost all young people (95%) opted for a democratic political system. Only 5% disagreed having a democratic political system. Their agreements on this issue indicate that, the youths will nurture democracy.

6.30 Trust They Have in Works of the Organization

6.30.1 The Media

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	50	31.3
	Some trust	98	61.3
	No trust	12	7.5
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.2 Judges

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	38	23.8
	Some trust	95	59.4
	No trust	27	16.9
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.3 Political Parties

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	16	10.0
	Some trust	65	40.6
	No trust	79	49.4
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.4 Big Businessmen

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	6	3.8
	Some trust	69	43.1
	No trust	85	53.1
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.5 Human Rights Commission

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	37	23.1
	Some trust	87	54.4
	No trust	36	22.5
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.6 Election Commission

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	27	16.9
	Some trust	103	64.4
	No trust	30	18.8
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.7 Information Commission

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	25	15.6
	Some trust	91	56.9
	No trust	44	27.5
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.8 Anti-Corruption Commission

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	21	13.1
	Some trust	73	45.6
	No trust	66	41.3
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.9 Army

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	87	54.4
	Some trust	63	39.4
	No trust	10	6.3
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.10 Police

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	11	6.9
	Some trust	69	43.1
	No trust	80	50.0
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.11 Religious Leader

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	57	35.6
	Some trust	54	33.8
	No trust	49	30.6
	Total	160	100.0

6.30.12 National NGO

		Frequency	Percent
	Total trust	40	25.0
	Some trust	93	58.1
	No trust	27	16.9
	Total	160	100.0

In response to the question 'how much trust you have on the works they do' army gets the highest score (54%) followed by religious leaders (36%) and media (31%). A quarter of respondents have total trust on national NGO and almost same (24%) have on judges and 23% on human right commission. It is interesting to note that, only 4% have trust on big businessmen. Unfortunately half of the respondents have no trust on political parties only 10% express total trust on them (political parties). The picture depicts that, political parties have lost their trust form young people. Businessmen who have alliance with political parties are not trusted by the young people.

Police, who are the law enforcing agency, also lost their credibility to the young people. Only 7% young men and women expressed their total trust on police. Election commission gets 17%, information commission 16% and anti-corruption commission gets 13% total trust. It is an issue of great concern that, organizations like political parties, police, information commission, election commission and anti-corruption commission which are very much related with maintenance of security justice, democratic values, and legal activities of the people gain only little trust of young people.

Chapter 7

Conclusion

7.1 Participation of Youth in Decision Making

Youths are potential human resources. We should take projects which promotes involvement of the youth in public decision making, especially in key decisions that affect their lives. The main methods of involvement have been through consultation workshop and as delegates to conferences. These ongoing projects of active participation will make youth a real political and economic force in the country. Youth is a big population stratum which poses considerable challenges in terms of human resources, planning and development. The youth are among most vulnerable social group. They lack access to basic services like education and health. Youth empowerment which is crucial for youth provide an appropriate framework for enabling the youth to develop social, economic, cultural and political skills so as to enhance their participation in overall development process and to improve their livelihood. In this way their participation in public decision making can be enhanced. So all programs and services targeting youth is to promote economic empowerment of youth, building capacity, provide relevant training and information to the stakeholders; and promote healthy growth in the development of youth through actions that protect, empower and prepare them for adulthood.

Leadership skills occur to youth when there is acquisition of decision making skills occur with greater representation of youth by their youth leadership especially when there is a structure right from the village to national level, a bottom up structure of political institution. The main political process will be partnership, representation, coordination and integration and participation in comprehensive implementation of political programs.

The situation of rural youth, in particular pose a great deal of urgency for the country. The living standard and political participation of rural youth are far lower compared with their urban counterpart. The rural youth are deprived of adequate educational facilities for both formal school and non-formal educational activities e.g. vocational and technical training as well as leadership training. As a result of lack of educational and training facilities, rural youth are unable to acquire the necessary skill for assuming leadership role in their communities. Therefore the aim of the special program for rural youth should be to

- Promote the participation of young men and women in the life of their communities.
- Promote the creation and development of community groups and networks.
- Promote inter-community relationship.
- Cultivate the sense of attachment to community.

Taking into consideration the pre-dominantly young population in the country it is desirable that the integration of youth in the mainstream of national socio-economic life should not stop at their mere inclusion in the national development plans but should rather be sustained by providing adequate programs and services for their development especially those in the rural communities and their constructive involvement in the formulation and review of policies and program affecting them.

The need for young wo/men to develop special strategies and techniques for political participation can best be acquired through systematic training programs and appropriate field experience. Social justice and political awareness are the basic necessities for youth participation in national development. Critical awareness is a pre-requisite for an effective social action. Famous social philosopher Paolo Freire's 'Conscientization' process is necessary for political participation of youth. Conscientization is the process of developing self-awareness and awareness of the social conditions in which a person finds himself. Through Conscientization process the youth will initiate development which is an integrated process with economic, social, political cultural and moral aspects. Youth movement would act as a moral force vanguard against exploitation, corruption and injustice, and a custodian of public morality.

7.2 Young women

The process through which young women gained political leadership in Bangladesh marginalized their participation in political arena with the result that young women generally neither receipt nomination not participated in the electoral process because the mobility networking and finances required for such participation was more accessible to men then to women.

The principle of special representation was vitiated by the nature of the process of election to the seats reserved for women in the Parliament, which virtually amended to nomination by the ruling party turning these seats into an appendage of the government. The political process of women's participation was thus reduced to lobbying with decision makers of the ruling party.

Women's empowerment has also been described as 'adding to women's power' with power meaning being able to make contributions at all levels of society and having this contribution recognized and valued. Power in the context of women therefore means particularly in decision making in all sphere of life not just areas of society which are accepted as women's place, creating from a woman's perspective, and being recognized and respected as equal citizens and human being capable of effectively contributing to society.

7.3 Life Skill Approach

The life skills approach is increasingly recognized as critical to promoting healthy behaviors among young people and used widely in many programs. The main purpose of teaching life skills is to empower young people to take charge of their lives and strengthen their capability to negotiate multiple challenges in life.

7.4 Promote democratic interaction and government through training

The direct experience of democratic association and deliberation is much more effective in preparing young people for active participation in later life. Areas for attention include the formation of youth clubs that operate on democratic principles, young people's involvement in club meeting and the creation of mechanisms that ensure the club members are consulted when key decisions are made.

7.5 Promote participatory citizen education and democratic practice in educational institute

The development of citizenship based curriculum will be a critical area in training centers. The term 'Political' implies critical thinking, analyzing how society is structured or organized, how decisions are made and in whose interests and how the functioning of society affects young people differently. Organizations in Latin America have the greatest experience of involving young people in this kind of political engagement. The aim is to enable youths to see that they are citizens with the rights and capacities to influence their own futures. In Brazil, the process of drafting, debating and enacting a child statute has helped transform the thinking of young people, codified the key principles of CRC and stimulated the formation of youth participation through municipal councils. Participation in local councils may afford a more sustainable and meaningful opportunity for young people, because they are closer to them and often handle matters to which youth can make valid contribution.

7.6 Promote carefully considered involvement of youths in electoral process

Election can provide highly visible occasions for youth engagement. In Mexico and Ecuador parallel children's vote as the same time as national elections have highlighted young people's priority rights. It might be worthwhile to organize a specific consultative exercise to challenge and dialogue with young people about the values and means of their effective engagement with electoral processes.

7.7 World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY), the World Fit for Children (WFFC), the United Nation Millennium Declaration and other international instrument and treaties all clearly state that, children and young people have the right to participate in public life. They further stipulate that, families, communities, national leadership and international partners have a responsibility to support this participation and to take their views into account when discussing issues that affect their lives. Concrete actions need to be undertaken at regional and country level to eliminate the barriers and facilitate every young person's right to be involved in the shaping of the future.

7.8 Suggestion for Future Activities

Based on the findings of the research study, Democracy International can start with overcoming the challenges outlined by the young wo/men. Women and youth centers of DI will mobilize to create opportunities for young people to contribute, with their enthusiasm, experience, idiosyncrasy and skills for positive political participation. Youth friendly training system for enhancing political education on need based issues of the young people should be conducted. Other than training, advocacy, debate, workshop and rally can be arranged for mobilization of youth in political participation. It is vital for the health of our democracy that, young people are encouraged and supported to play an active role in politics. Research study reveals that there is a great need for providing education to the young wo/men about governance, ideology of different political parties, constitution of political parties, democracy, constitution of the country, citizenship rights, role of the women members in the Union Parishad, duties

of office bearers of local government, voting and election, parliament, leadership, good governance, right and duties of citizen, manifesto of the political party, fair election, workshop to raise political awareness and human rights education. These can be done through organized training program on the different issues which will enhance the political participation of youths.

7.8.1 Utilizing Youth Club Leaders as Peer Educators

It is not possible to train up all the youths of Bangladesh. But the target groups should be selected in such a way that through them the education can be disseminated to their peer groups. Young leaders of grass-root level youth organization can be identified for this purpose. According to the information of Department of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports there are about thirteen thousand five hundred and ninety seven (13,597) youth organizations throughout Bangladesh. These are enlisted with the Department of Youth. In each upazilla, there are at least four youth organizations. They have their executive committee. The members of the executive committee are potential youth leaders.

These organizations have significant contribution in socio-economic and environmental development of their own locality. Their main activities are non-formal education, blood-donation, social forestry, health & sanitation, skill development, sports & games, literary and cultural programs, anti-drug movement, seminar, workshop, aids-awareness program, agricultural program, eye camp, child and maternal health care etc. Some organizations have fish farm, poultry and livestock farm, nursery, dress making projects and small credit program also. Youth clubs are very effective in raising conscientization among the youth groups. Through a strong ideal youth organization, the youths can earn the following qualities and skill: Personality development, growing leadership qualities, creativity, patriotism, decision making capacity, meaningful use of leisure time, attitudinal development team spirit, co- operation, empathy and working in a democratic process with the members and healthy interaction with peer group.

Youth club leaders make person-to-person communication to integrate the scattered youths into group for peer counseling. One of the most important and crucial task before them is to establish a sound working relationships with the youths to assist them in getting organized into a viable and functional group. In doing so, they are required to realize the ideas, values, attitudes and beliefs of the youth groups with a friendly approach: They develop locally suitable educational approaches based on understanding of the local youths. They facilitate socialization and small group discussions among the local youths. They contribute fully to the attainment of program goals and relate to other activities of youth clubs in a mutually supportive way. It is imperative to equip youth with adequate social knowledge and training skill to participate in political process. As adults and parents of tomorrow, the youth's perception of and attitude towards responsible parenthood should be given importance in planning and designing of program and services for them. One method to sustain these efforts should be to give emphasis on suitable training program on leadership, club management, good governance, election, and mobilization of the community for political process. It is from this corps of youth that the nucleus for effective youth participation could be nurtured and generated. Nomination of youth club leaders can be available through the Deputy Director/ Assistant Director Department of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports. Department has its office in each district of Bangladesh.

7.8.2 Training of Scout and Girl-guide

In each district of Bangladesh, there are uniform youth groups i.e. scout and girl-guides. They have their 'patrol leader' who lead the small groups. If selected scout and girl-guide leaders are trained up on citizenship education they can do advocacy among their groups.

7.8.3 Youth Wing of Political Parties

Young leaders of political parties may be imparted political education so that, they can raise awareness of their groups.

7.8.4 Training for Female Youth Leaders

Though there can be training for mixed youth leaders (both male and female) because of the social set-up, separate training can be conducted for the female youth specially the rural young women so that they can feel free for frank discussion and participation.

7.8.5 Methodology of Training

The training sessions should be built upon four components of the experiential learning cycle: experience, reflection, generalization and application. The experience is an exercise or participatory presentation in which information is presented for discussion and learning. Reflection helps participants think about, analyze new information, and develop their own ideas about a topic. Generalization allows participants to draw broad conclusions and lessons learned about the new information. Application enables them, to visualize how they apply their new knowledge and skills in the future. The whole process will be a participatory one.

7.8.6 Objective of Training: First objective is to change in Behavior and to mobilize youth for elimination of all types of gender discrimination. In dealing with inter-group and intra group conflicts, adopting a non-partisan objective attitude, keeping in mind the best interest of the youth.

7.8.7 Practice skills: The trainers and youth leaders will be helped to acquire the following practice skills: Communication skills both verbal and written to be able to present facts in clear logical, sequential and objective, manner through memos, minutes, periodic reports, public speaking in village gathering and general meeting.

7.8.8 Organizational and planning skills

Group building skills to be able to help groups to organize it in a systematic manner, maximizing group satisfaction through task achievement. Ability to make situational analysis of the community and to plan

strategy and technical options for solving the problem on hand. Conducting campaigns to develop public opinion, creating a climate for community action against all sorts of gender discrimination.

7.8.9 Follow up Activities of the Training

The trained youth leaders of youth clubs will share their knowledge and skill with peers. They will disseminate the information in their executive committee meeting. They will arrange discussion on governance, gender issue, and political participation of young people. These will raise the political awareness level of youth club members.

7.9 Organizing Debate and Dialogue

These can be arranged on celebration of National Youth Day (1 December) International Youth Day (12 August) World Women's Day (8 March). Youth will be engaged to debate significant political issues which affect their lives. In debate, they will identify the political problems and raise their voice to settle it. They themselves will determine the course of action. Social pedagogy is based on the belief that young people can only develop as responsible and sociable personalities if they are capable not only of recognizing their very own problems, but of also finding appropriate solutions; if they are not just recognized in their community but also have a voice, and, if we succeed in generating their interests and participation not only in relation to youth issues but also in relation to issues affecting society as a whole. The approaches of self-organization and self-determination, practiced in OUTREACH, are based on this commonly accepted belief.

7.10 Overall Recommendation and Suggestion on Participation Issue

- Program should focus on ensuring sustainability and ownership of intervention through the direct participation of young people in their design, development, implementation, assessment and management network
- If young people are given opportunity to get organized and to participate in organizational work, they will be sufficiently creative and motivated enough to act as powerful movers.
- Young peer educator need to be developed in the centre who will be participatory one if it becomes peer organized and self propagated.
- The youth and women centers should build young people's capabilities to participate effectively. Preparing young people for participation involves dialogue, active deliberation and learning by doing and practicing what is taught. The nature of adult youth relationship in any program to promote capacity development needs to be carefully considered. Young people need to be able to listen, reflect, analytic, ask questions and challenge adults if needed in the process of dialogue.

- There is a need to build adult's capacity to listen and to promote youth participation. It is difficult for genuine participation to take place when adults are biased and feel that they have nothing to learn from the young people. Program needs to promote culture of adult's changing attitude, behavior and listening to young people. Capacity building program should include training adults in facilitation skill and becoming more aware through interaction dynamics.
- The structure and process of youth participation needs to reflect the principle and procedures of democracy. These include equality, freedom of expression, active deliberation, democratic practice, which enhance the quality, equity, space and opportunity for youth participation. This democratic culture can avoid manipulation and exploitation of young people for serving vested interest.
- Essay and debate competitions among the youths on the vital political issues affecting the youth need to be organized by youth.
- Positive attitude should be improved to eliminate gender discriminations in the organization and to evolve policy in the organization to maintain gender balance in all spheres of the centre.
- Annual Youth Assembly can be organized by youth centers to disseminate political issues and other vital issues and to go for open dialogue among youths.

Let us conclude with the saying of Kofi Anan, Former UN Secretary General

“A Society that cuts itself off from its youth severs its line; it is condemned to bleed to death. You are guardians of that life line, nurture it, develop it; give it strength.” (Youth Conference in Lisbon, August-1998)

Annexure

Table 6.1: Activities to participate by youth

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Becoming a member of a political party	45	15.5
Attending procession	41	14.1
Distributing leaflet	23	7.9
Sticking poster on the wall	14	4.8
Wearing a badge	31	10.7
Writing letter to a politician	11	3.8
Attending conference/workshop on politic	37	12.8
Casting vote	53	18.3
Joining boycott/road march/past march/strike	22	7.6
Participate in gherao	12	4.1
None of the above	1	.3
Total responses	290	100.0

Table 6.2: Barriers to participate in politics

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Political Instability	8	8.1
Family Obstacle	4	4.0
Political unrest	11	11.1
Terrorism	19	19.2
Corruption	5	5.1
Social obstacle	7	7.1
Weak economy	8	8.1
Obstacle from police	2	2.0
Sick/dirty political environment	1	1.0
Tinted student politics	1	1.0
Lack of democratic practice	2	2.0
Insecurity	8	8.1
Religious obstacle	6	6.1
Oppress opposition party	1	1.0
Lack of awareness on politics	2	2.0
Education	2	2.0
Political Clash	1	1.0
Professional obstacle	2	2.0
Don't know	9	9.1
Total responses	99	100.0

Table 6.3: Steps to improve your political participation

Category label	Count	Responses
Financial Assistance from party	6	2.5
Women's security	4	1.7
To change the mentality towards women of	17	7.1
Develop law and order situation	2	.8
To make understand the family	18	7.6
No idea	1	.4
Financial security increase participation	10	4.2
Life security	10	4.2
Tolerable environment	5	2.1
Political stability	24	10.1
Ensure people's participation	4	1.7
Clarification of political system	11	4.6
Tolerable and corruption free environment	14	5.9
Gave importance to democratic values	15	6.3
To stop dominance of black money in politics	2	.8
Prevent violence	2	.8
Nurture leader in politics at root level	2	.8
Moral values	3	1.3
Prevent violence in politics	8	3.4
Create political environment for women	4	1.7
Establish good governance	10	4.2
Reduce administrative obstacles	6	2.5
Training	5	2.1
people should aware on politics & society	1	.4
Don't know	54	22.7
Total responses	238	100.0

Table 6.4: Intensity of interested in politics

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Not at all interested	21	13.1
	Not very interested	21	13.1
	Quite interested	63	39.4
	Very interested	35	21.9
	Not interested	20	12.5
	Total	160	100.0

Table 6.5: Steps to Enhance Women's Participation in Politics

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Educational institution can play role	11	4.2
Support from family	31	11.8
Change the social perception	20	7.6
Campaigning		1.5
Ensure security	22	8.4
Proper utilization of law	3	1.1
To motivate women in group	14	5.3
Women's participation in local level	3	1.1
Male will take initiatives		1.1
Increase the women's education	11	4.2
Change man's mentality	5	1.9
Gain women self	7	2.7
Separate political platform for women	1	.4
Quota system	3	1.1
Develop the political culture	13	4.9
Equal rights	32	12.2
Political competency	16	6.1
Increase the Islamic concept in politics	1	.4
Remove religious obstacle	10	3.8
Increase awareness	33	12.5
Terrorism free student politics	1	.4
No need	1	.4
Don't know	18	6.8
Total responses	263	100.0

Table 6.6: Types of Support Required Improving the Quality of Politics

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
To increase more women in committee level	5	2.2
Create new leadership	6	2.6
Politicians patriotism	4	1.7
To create democratic environment	26	11.3
Respect for other party	3	1.3
Violence free environment in politics	23	10
Introduce educated people's in politics	8	3.5
Create the system to increase competency	10	4.3
Honesty in politics	7	3.0
Establish competent leadership	20	8.7
Conduct seminar/meeting by experienced I	2	.9
Self sufficient	11	4.8
Access to freedom	8	3.5
Democracy practice from family	6	2.6

Establish women rights	4	1.7
Corruption free	25	10.9
Security		1.3
Easy communication system	1	.4
People's support	7	3.0
Political party support	7	3.0
Youth's support	2	.9
No need	10	4.3
Don't know	32	13.9
Total responses	230	100.0

Table 6.7: Source of Political Information

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
E-mail	34	5.6
Website	53	8.7
Citizenship education at the secondary s	40	6.6
Information commission	14	2.3
Election commission visiting schools to	9	1.5
Youth clubs	43	7.1
NGOs	58	9.5
Poster	109	17.9
Newspaper	5	.8
Radio	45	7.4
Television	117	19.2
Through post	39	6.4
Leaflet	43	7.0
Total responses	609	100.0

Table 6.8: Support Expected from the Political Parties

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Democratic practice	32	11.3
Tolerance	8	2.8
To motivation politics	8	2.8
Increase participation of honest and com	14	5.0
Political stability	15	5.3
Political education/knowledge	15	5.3
Security	11	3.9
Corruption free environment	15	5.3
To increase the participation of new gen	3	1.1
Change the views about women	7	2.5
Participation in development work	5	1.8
Increase faith towards political party	2	.7
Ideal policy	12	4.3

Right to information	3	1.1
Reduce political violence	9	3.2
Right evaluation for political worker	15	5.3
Clarity	7	2.5
Proper leadership	5	1.8
Establish good governance	12	4.3
Resist political clash	3	1.1
Eliminate political discrimination	3	1.1
Financial assistance	9	3.2
No need	11	3.9
Don't want participate in politics	3	1.1
Don't know	55	19.5
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Total responses	282	100.0

Table 6.9: How youth can play role in improving politics and political process of the country

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Political violence	8	3.7
Resist non-democratic decision	13	6.0
Increase knowledge about politics	7	3.2
To develop protection against illegal activities	11	5.0
Struggle for expected political situation	11	5.0
Good work for betterment of society	5	2.3
Self honesty	6	2.8
Resolve the political issues	3	1.4
Creating moral values	6	2.8
Establish strong youth organization	6	2.8
System development through youth organization	19	8.7
Strong political criticism	1	.5
Through human resource development	6	2.8
Establish youth political organization	2	.9
To form a platform about their rights in	4	1.8
Develop systems through honest leader	11	5.0
Create new concept	6	2.8
Right leader selection	6	2.8
Work for the sake of country	2	.9
Contribution in accountability	1	.5
To speak against corruption of the party	11	5.0
Don't influence by others unlawful activity	1	.5
Through innovative ideas a new political	7	3.2
Youth will play no role	1	.5
Don't know	64	29.4
Total responses	218	100.0

Table 6.10: Organizations that Assist Youth in Political Participation

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
CSDF	1	.7
Proshika	8	5.8
Annesha	1	.7
World Vision	2	1.4
PSTC	1	.7
Chatra Sibir	1	.7
Chatra Sena	1	.7
Grameen Bank	17	12.3
Asa	23	16.7
BRAC	36	26.1
TMSS	11	8.0
The Asia Foundation	1	.7
The Hunger Project	1	.7
UNDP	4	2.9
CARE	8	5.8
Sujon	2	1.4
Bureau Bangladesh	1	.7
Democracywatch	6	4.3
Broti	1	.7
Mahila Samity	1	.7
Nari Pakkha	1	.7
SKS	2	1.4
GKS	3	2.2
BDS	4	2.9
AVAS	1	.7
Total responses	138	100.0

Table 6.11: Burning issues of Bangladesh

Category label	Count	Percent (%)
Education	37	10.2
Unemployment	36	9.9
Communication	5	1.4
Food	8	2.2
Population	50	13.7
Corruption	43	11.8
Terrorism	24	6.6
Good Governance	3	.8
Drug Addiction	4	1.1
Economical	25	6.9
Political Unrest	46	12.6
Electricity	12	3.3

Insecurity	2	.5
Gas	1	.3
Poverty	32	8.8
Lack of awareness	10	2.7
Violence against women	2	.5
Murder	2	.5
Rape	1	.3
Price hike in everything	18	4.9
Health	1	.3
India-Bangladesh relationship	2	.5
Total		100

Data Collection Instrument**Political Perception and Engagement of Young Wo/men in Bangladesh**

In-Depth Interview (IDI)

(Young Wo/men 18-35 Years)

Sl. No.	Identification of Sample Respondent	Code
I.	Name of the respondent:	
II.	Occupation UP member =1, NGO worker = 2, Government employee = 3, Student = 4, Political worker = 5, House manager = 6, Teacher = 7, Others (Please indicate) = 8	
III.	Age	
IV.	Education (Class completed)	
V.	Marital Status Married = 1, Unmarried = 2, Divorced = 3, Widow = 4, Separated = 5	
VI.	Stratum Rural =1, Urban =2, Metropolitan Area = 3	
Interviewer's Particular		
Interviewer's Name:		
Date of Interview:		

*Study Sponsored By:***Democracy International***Study Conducted By:***Democracy Watch**

December 2011

IDI Checklist

Good morning (afternoon), my name is and I am a field researcher of Democracy Watch. We are running a study to understand the opinions of young people. This will only take a few minutes. I would like to underscore that your answers are confidential. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. We are only interested in hearing people's opinions about these topics.

Section-A

1. Can you participate in decision making in your family? Please explain

2. Do you participate in politics?

Yes= 1, No= 2 (skip to Q=3)

3. If yes, do you participate in any of the following activities? (Please circle, more than one answers are acceptable)

- i. Becoming a member of a political party
- ii. Attending procession
- iii. Distributing leaflet
- iv. Sticking poster on the wall
- v. Wearing a badge
- vi. Writing letter to a politician
- vii. Attending conference/ workshop on political issues
- viii. Casting vote
- ix. Joining boycott/ road march/ past march/ strike
- x. Participate in gherao
- xi. None of the above

4. I am interested to participate in politics because of...(Please circle, more than one answers are acceptable)

- i. It develop civic responsibility
 - ii. It enhances freedom of speed
 - iii. We can learn democratic values
 - iv. Through politics stability and security of the country can be restored
 - v. It flourishes leadership qualities
5. What factors influence you to participate in politics?
- i. Influenced by family
 - ii. Influenced by friends
 - iii. I myself decided
 - iv. Influenced by local community
 - v. Influenced by the political parties
 - vi. Influenced by media

6. What are the barriers to participate in politics?

7. What are the steps that will help you to improve your political participation?

8. How much you are interested in politics.

Level of interest	Code (Please circle)
Not at all interested	1
Not very interested	2
Quite interested	3
Very interested	4
Refused/do not know	5
Not interested	6

9. I am not interested in politics because of ... (Please circle, more than one answers are acceptable)

- i. Constant political violence
- ii. Endemic corruption rooted in politics
- iii. Empty promises by politicians
- iv. No socio-economic development is visible
- v. Confusion about political process
- vi. Political parties are not fulfilling their obligations to citizens
- vii. I do not understand politics

10. Do you support political participation of young women?

Yes= 1, No= 2

11. Young women do not involve themselves in politics because... (Please circle, more than one answers are acceptable)

- i. Women have little aptitude in politics
- ii. Women do not understand politics
- iii. Women have less intelligence than men
- iv. Women should participate only in domestic works
- v. Women are less willing in politics
- vi. Because of patriarchal mentality of the society

12. What steps should be taken to enhance young women's participation in politics?

13. What types of support you would require improving the quality of politics?

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.
- v.

14. What are the ways through which youth receive information about political issues

- i. E-mail
- ii. Website
- iii. Citizenship education at the secondary school
- iv. Information Commission

- v. Election commission visiting schools to talk about the electoral process
- vi. Youth clubs
- vii. NGOs
- viii. Through post
- ix. Newspaper
- x. Radio
- xi. Television
- xii. Leaflet
- xiii. poster

15. I am going to read to you some of the things people say about democracy. For each statement, I would like you to tell me if you agree or disagree

15.1 In a democracy, the economic system works poorly

Agree = 1, Disagree = 2

15.2 Democracies are not good to establish order

Agree = 1, Disagree = 2

15.3 Democracy may have problems, but it is the best ruling system

Agree = 1, Disagree = 2

Section-B

16. What type of support you would like to get from the political parties for your involvement in the political process?

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.
- v.

17. What is your idea about political parties in Bangladesh? (Please circle, more than one answers are acceptable)

- i. Political parties face a collective crisis of credibility
- ii. They rarely keep their promises
- iii. They disappear after election
- iv. Political parties nurture democracy
- v. They ensure development of the country
- vi. They do not have ethical values

vii. Political parties are the mouth piece of general mass

18. What is the role of political parties bringing more women and youth in political process?

- i. Genuine political parties consider youth as an asset of the country
- ii. Political parties are alienated from the youth
- iii. They exploit youth for their own interest
- iv. They have no genuine interest for the youth
- v. They develop the capacity to speak for the youth in their own language

19. What is your expectation from the political parties?

- i. They should provide youth with the opportunity to participate in the country's local and national development activities
- ii. They should maintain open and regular communication with citizens
- iii. They should ensure democratic values in the country
- iv. They should solve the major problems of the country
- v. They should demonstrate interest in citizens beyond just rule
- vi. They should render service to the citizen with honest effort

20. How youth can play role in improving the politics & political process of the country?

21. Have you cast your vote in election 2008?

Yes = 1, No = 2

22. Did you see any violence against women during election 2008?

23. What factors you would like to encourage women and youth in voting in future elections?

- i. Feeling that my vote could make a difference
- ii. Feeling that the party I support has a chance of winning
- iii. Involving more women in politics?
- iv. Terrorist candidate refrains to participate in election
- v. Feeling of trust in the politicians

24. What is your idea about NGO/INGOs or civil society, which will assist you in political participation?

25. Do you know about any such organization? If yes, please mention the name.

26. For you, what are the major issues of Bangladesh?

27. Do you feel the need of any education to enhance your political awareness?

Yes=1, No= 2

28. Do you need any further education to enhance your knowledge on the following issues? (Please circle)

Sl.	Issue	Yes =1	No = 2
1.	Election	1	2
2.	Citizenship	1	2
3.	Good governance	1	2
4.	Leadership development	1	2
5.	Parliament	1	2
6.	Local government	1	2
7.	National policy for advancement of women	1	2
8.	Gender issue	1	2
9.	Human rights	1	2
10.	Life-skill education	1	2
11.	Election Campaign	1	2
12.	Public Speaking	1	2
13.	Election fund raising	1	2
14.	Advocacy	1	2
15.	Transparency	1	2
16.	Others (Please specify)	1	2

29. I would like to know your opinion about what you think the best system would be to rule our country.

29.1 Having strong leader who rules with no elections

Agree = 1, Disagree = 2

29.2 Having expert decision makers who act following what they think it is best

Agree = 1, Disagree = 2

29.3 Having a democratic political system

Agree = 1, Disagree =

30. *Now I am going to mention a number of organizations in Bangladesh, I would like to know how much trust you have in the works they do. (Please Circle)*

Q #	Organization	Total Trust	Some Trust	No Trust
i.	The Media	1	2	3
ii.	Judges	1	2	3
iii.	Political Parties	1	2	3
iv.	Big Businessmen	1	2	3
v.	Human Rights Commission	1	2	3
vi.	Election Commission	1	2	3
vii.	Information Commission	1	2	3
viii.	Anti-Corruption Commission	1	2	3
ix.	Army	1	2	3
x.	Police	1	2	3
xi.	Religious Leader	1	2	3
xii.	National NGO	1	2	3

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